BRIDGE THE GAP/ORIENTATION
GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers who wish to carry the message to The Prairie Center or The Pavilion treatment centers must abide by the following guidelines:

1) You must have one year of continuous sobriety, have completely worked through the 12 steps and have a sponsor.

2) If you are unable to attend your scheduled obligation it is your responsibility to find a fill-in from the list, which will be updated regularly and placed in the binder.

3) Please observe that we are here to represent Alcoholics Anonymous, not religion, other 12 step programs or any other organization.

4) If you have not been assigned a position by a co-chair, you are not allowed to participate. Assigned members may bring a sponsee with 10+ months of sobriety to observe only so they can learn how to carry the message in this way. They are not allowed to participte.

5) Meeting lasts for one hour and is conducted by one of the three panel members who agrees to chair the meeting. Read aloud the bold print from the Bridge The Gap or Orientation Format sheet inside the binder.

6) This is not a forum to tell your story. To allow time to cover as many questions as possible from the clients, please answer questions by sharing your experience, strength and hope only on the topic they ask about.

7) It is up to the chair person to stop any distractions during the meeting, including cross talk between clients and/or clients trying to answer questions. The opening remarks state that the panel members will answer questions. Sometimes a client will need a gentle reminder that this is not a group counseling session and only the panel members reply to the questions/topic.

8) If you are looking to" hook-up" you are in the wrong place. "13th stepping" will not be tolerated. This behavior robs newly sober alcoholics of the opportunity to put their full attention on recovery. If a client of the opposite sex asks for your phone number, please direct them to the appropriate panel member of the same sex.